

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DHCLARE

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EUR/WE:SWORREL (INFO)

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R 232307Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226996

E.O. 11652:XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, GT, BH, UK

SUBJECT: BELIZE DISPUTE

1. IN TELECON SEPT 22, UK EMB (WALKER) INQUIRED OF DEPTOFF (CLARE) RESULTS OF AMBASSADOR'S CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT LAUGERUD. DEPTOFF REPLIED THAT US OPPOSITION TO USE OF FORCE MADE CLEAR DURING "FRANK DISCUSSION BETWEEN FRIENDS" LAUGERUD TOLD C-47'S WOULD NOT BE RELEASED AS LONG AS DOUBT EXISTED OVER USE IN BELIZE. PRESIDENT STRESSED HIS DESIRE TO AVOID CONFRONTATION, WISH TO RESUME TALKS WITH UK AND CONCERN OVER UN RESOLUTION.

2. WALKER REITERATED BELIEF THAT GUATEMALANS, THROUGH THE SKINNER KLEE-RICHARD TALKS, KNEW THAT UK COULD NOT PREVENT PRICE FROM EXPLORING THIRD WORLD SUPPORT AT UN.
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UK BELIEVED IT COULD EXERT CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE

OVER PHRASING; PRICE AND S;OMAN INTELLIGENT MEN WHO WOULD NOT WANT TO PUSH THE GUATEMALANS TOO FAR. DEPTOFF SAID WE HAD IMPRESSION GUATEMALANS DID NOT UNDERSTAND UK POSITION; THEY THOUGHT UK WAS ENCOURAGING UN DEBATE AND SUBSEQUENT RESOLUTION. EXPRESSED HOPE UK WOULD CLARIFY ITS POSITION WITH GUATEMALANS. WALKER SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT UKUN WOULD BE DOING SO.

3. DEPTOFF ASKED STATUS OF UK POLICY PAPER WALKER HAD REFERRED TO EARLIER. WALKER DESCRIBED PAPER AS ESSENTIALLY SAME PACKAGE UK HAD BEEN PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE WITH GOG AT MID-JULY NEW YORK MEETING. TALKS HAD REACHED IMPASSE BEFORE PACKAGE PRESENTED. IN WALKER'S VIEW, UN SCENARIO WOULD HAVE TO RUN ITS COURSE BEFORE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE RESUMED AND OUTLINES OF PROPOSAL SURFACED.

4. DEPTOFF RAISED POSSIBILITY OF SOME ROLE FOR ICJ. WALKER WAS FIRM IN RESPONDING THAT UK DID NOT WANT TO HAVE COURT INVOLVED. ROBINSON

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